

REMARKS

This communication is being filed in response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 23, 2007. As will be explained in detail below, claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-18 are elected herein without traverse for examination at this time. New claims 35-45 are added herewith that are consonant with the election. Some of the elected claims are amended as shown above. No new matter has been added. Claims 5, 11, and 19-34 are canceled herein without prejudice. With this filing, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-18, and 35-45 are pending in the application.

I. Restriction and election

The Examiner required restriction to Invention I (claims 1-18), Invention II (claims 19-29), and Invention III (claims 30-34). Furthermore, the Examiner required election of what were deemed to be Species A (Figures 1-2), Species B (Figure 4), Species C (Figures 6-7), and Species D (Figure 8). The Examiner indicated that a reply to the Restriction Requirement must include (i) an election of species or invention and (ii) an identification of claims encompassing/readable on the elected invention/species.

Accordingly, Invention I (claims 1-18 drawn to a method and system for controlling access to network components including load balancing) and Species A (Figures 1-2) are elected for examination herein, without traverse. The claims of elected Invention I that are readable on Species A are claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-18. The features recited in claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-18 can be found in the description from pages 11-21 and elsewhere in the present application that discuss Figures 1-2.

Hence, it is kindly requested that elected claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-18 be examined. The non-elected claims 5, 11, and 19-34 are canceled herein without prejudice.

II. Newly added claims

New claims 35-45 are added herewith, and it is kindly requested that these newly added claims be examined together with elected claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-18. Specifically, these newly added claims 35-45 contain recitations that are consonant or otherwise consistent with the elected Invention I / Species A.

III. Claim amendments

Independent claims 1 and 12 are amended to more precisely recite the subject matter contained therein. Dependent claims 10 and 15 are amended to be more consonant with the elected Invention I / Species A. Dependent claims 13-15 are also amended to more precisely recite the means-plus-function elements contained therein.

IV. Conclusion

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this communication, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. If there are any issues that can be expediently resolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the attorney of record (Dennis M. de Guzman) at (206) 622-4900.

All of the claims remaining in the application are believed to be allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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